



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

# Lower Saddle River, Bergen County Flood Damage Reduction Project

## FACT SHEET

**DESCRIPTION:** Flooding occurs in the lower Saddle River basin area along the Saddle River and Sprout Brook in the municipalities of Garfield, Wallington, South Hackensack, Lodi, Saddle Brook, Rochelle Park, Paramus, and Fair Lawn, New Jersey. The area has experienced significant flooding historically, including floods in May 1968, September 1971, August 1973, November 1977, May 1979, April 1984, and September 1999. Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999 devastated the Lower Saddle River Basin.

The authorized project consists of channel modifications along 5.2 miles of the lower reaches of the Saddle River and 1.7 miles of the lower reaches of Sprout Brook. A total of 12 bridges would be modified in order to accommodate a deeper channel. In addition, fish and wildlife measures would also be included for mitigation of potential adverse environmental impacts and improvement of aquatic habitat. The project will provide protection up to a 150-year flood event with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.5:1.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Congress authorized the Lower Saddle River Flood Protection Project under Section 401 (a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662).

**STATUS:** In 1996, the Corps completed a draft General Design Memorandum that refined project design and outlined project implementation plans. The report found that the non-Federal sponsor, the State of New Jersey, would be required to remediate or clean contaminated sites in the project area at a cost of over \$30 million before the project could be implemented, or pay the Corps to do the clean up as part of the construction of the project. Due to the high remediation cost the State requested that design efforts be halted. In response to the record flooding from Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999, local interests requested that efforts to implement a plan be resumed. The State of New Jersey through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) indicated via letter dated September 15, 2003 that it wished to resume the project. The Corps and the NJDEP are in the process of preparing a Project Management Plan that will present the activities, cost, and schedule to update the design, complete environmental coordination and prepare the project for construction.

It should be noted that since 1996 when the design was halted, several of the bridges that would require modifications as part of the authorized plan have been replaced by Bergen County, private interests, and/or the NJDOT. The replacement bridges have generally been made compatible with the authorized project potentially reducing future project costs.

### PROJECT COST (1996 dollars):

Estimated Federal Cost	\$68,000,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost (Subject to credits applied by the State)	\$22,600,000
Total	\$90,600,000

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